

- 32 -

BP File No. 11157-74/AEN

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5           The present invention is for a charged dextran,  
preferably dextran sulfate, as an improved mucoactive agent which  
can be used to improve viscoelasticity and clearance of respiratory  
tract mucus. The charged dextran can be used in the treatment of  
animals with impaired mucus clearance, mucus retention and/or mucus  
hypersecretion, such as cystic fibrosis, chronic bronchitis,  
10       bronchiectasis, bronchiolitis and bronchial asthma. Related methods of  
treatment and pharmaceutical compositions, particularly aerosolized  
dextran sulfate compositions are encompassed within the scope of the  
invention.

15